# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5995
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002
DETENTION OF WAGONS LOADED WITH TIMBER
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) the detailed guidelines/rules framed for prevention of illegal felling and transport of timber in the country;

(b) the details of irregularities/illegalities noticed with regard to detention/seizure of wagons loaded with timber during October, 1999 to January, 2000 in North East Region;

(c) the details of findings of inquiries conducted in this regard; and

(d) the action taken against each of the persons found guilty?

## Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) The States and Union Territories have either adopted Indian Forest Act, 1927 or enacted their own Acts for prevention of illegal felling and transportation of timber.

(b) to (d) On receipt of information about transport of illegal timber from North-Eastern Region in the garb of legal timber, physical verification of about 202 wagons loaded with timber was got done. During physical verification and subsequent investigation, significant irregularities and illegalities were found. For detailed investigation and follow up action, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted. The investigations revealed that illegal timber was transported on large scale in the garb of legal timber. After necessary investigations, issue of show cause notices and personal hearings, final decisions in respect of 202 wagons have so far been taken by the Special Investigation Team for confiscation of illegal timber, imposition of penalty and action against those responsible for various irregularities/illegalities.